

**Image**

**8**  
MAY

\$195  
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# THE MAN AND



LET  
MIL  
AYB

# **image**™

## **COMICS PRESENTS**

# **THE MAXX**™

Story • Art

**SAM KIETH**

Swell Dialogue

**BILL MESSNER-LOEBS**

Finishes

**JIM SINCLAIR**

Lettering

**MIKE HEISLER**

Color

**STEVE OLIFF  
& OLYOPTICS**

Logo

**CHANCE WOLF**

Film Output

**KELL-O-GRAPHICS**

### **FOR IMAGE COMICS:**

Exec. Director

Publisher

Promotions

Distribution

Art Director

Assistant to Exec. Director

Production

Traffic Coordinator

**LARRY MARDER**

**TONY LOBITO**

**KYLE ZIMMERMAN**

**GERMAINE ZACHARIAH**

**DOUG GRIFFITH**

**KELLY VAN LANDINGHAM**

**TERESA CESPEDES**

**RONNA COULTER**

### **OLYOPTICS IS:**

**TRACEY ANDERSON**

**ROBYN ROBERSON**

**CATHY ENIS**

**PATTI STRATTON JORDAN**

**KIRK MOBERT**

**QUINN SUPLEE**

**WILLIAM ZINDEL**

**LEA RUDE**

**MARIE**

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The clay told  
me to listen  
to the horse...  
that it was my  
spirit animal...  
God, that sounds  
so LAME! "The  
CLAY told me"...  
but it's true!

No crazier than the  
stupid architect  
who sculpted all  
these animal heads  
on the side of this  
building.

I think I  
like the  
SQUIRREL  
better.

At least then a  
squirrel would  
TELL me the  
stupid secrets  
of the universe!

Instead of me  
just standing  
here hour after  
hour, waiting!

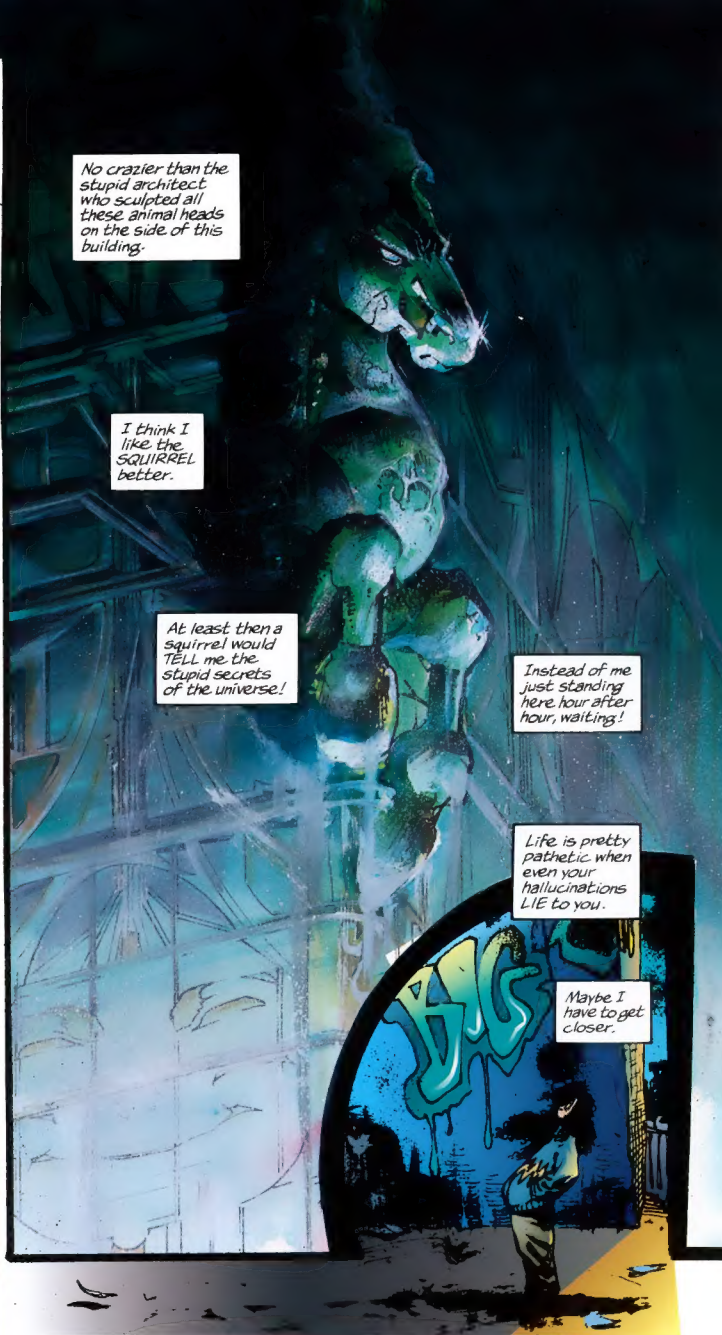
Life is pretty  
pathetic when  
even your  
hallucinations  
LIE to you.

I even put the  
clay's BAG in  
Julie's house...

Which is where  
I saw those  
two itty-bitty  
SUPER-HEROES  
fighting that  
blue marsh-  
mallow with  
TEETH...

Which is why  
I'm probably  
CRAZY!

Maybe I  
have to get  
closer.





AND ELSEWHERE, DEEP WITHIN  
THAT SAVAGE LAND KNOWN AS  
THE OUTBACK...


JULIE WINTERS HEARS  
THE SLIGHT RUSTLE OF  
GRASSES... FEELS LEOPARD  
SKIN AGAINST HER FLESH...  
AND INSTINCTS SHE NEVER  
REALIZED SHE HAD KICK ON!

WITH STEEL-SPRING  
SPEED AND STRENGTH  
SHE TWISTS, RIPPING  
FREE ONE OF THE SUP-  
PORT POLES FROM THE  
MASSIVE STONE  
FERTILITY SYMBOL...

AND  
HURLING IT  
LIKE A SPEAR  
INTO THE  
VITALS OF  
THE APPROACHING  
PREDATOR!

*fssssss*

*grrrr*




THE CRAZED  
SPECKLED STALKER  
REGAINS ITS FEET,  
PANTING WITH  
SHOCK...

*CHUNK*

...AND CRASHES  
INTO THE MINIATURE  
JUNGLE SURROUNDING  
THEM WITH A DAMP  
SCREAM.

"WELL, COOL!"  
THINKS JULIE,  
HER MIND  
ABLAZE WITH  
PRIMITIVE  
PASSIONS.



YIKES! THAT  
LITTLE CREAM-FILLED  
BLINTZ 'S GOING  
NATIVE! I BETTER  
BOOK!



MALACHI, TERRIBLE SPECKLED  
STALKER OF THE PLAIN AND,  
UNTIL THIS MORNING, THE GREAT-  
EST GIANT IN THE OUTBACK,  
HAS TIME FOR BUT ONE THOUGHT...

"SHARP STICK,"  
HE THINKS.  
AND DIES.

BUT EVEN THE  
TINY SCRAPINGS,  
MADE BY THE  
DIMINUTIVE MR.  
GONE AS HE  
CLAMBERS  
OVER THE HARD-  
ENED EARTH, ARE LIKE  
DRUMBEATS TO THE  
SUDDENLY PRETERNATURAL  
HEARING OF JULIE  
WINTERS...

...WHO LEAPS LIKE A  
GREAT JUNGLE CAT!

CRAP!

HER HAND  
CLOSES LIKE  
A HAWK'S  
TALON...

AND THE DIMINUTIVE  
DASTARD IS  
IMMOBILIZED...

AND AT  
HER DUBIOUS  
MERCY!

YOU! I  
ALWAYS KNEW  
YOU WEREN'T DEAD!  
NOW I WANT  
THE TRUTH!

TALK  
T'DESCARTES,  
TOOTS!

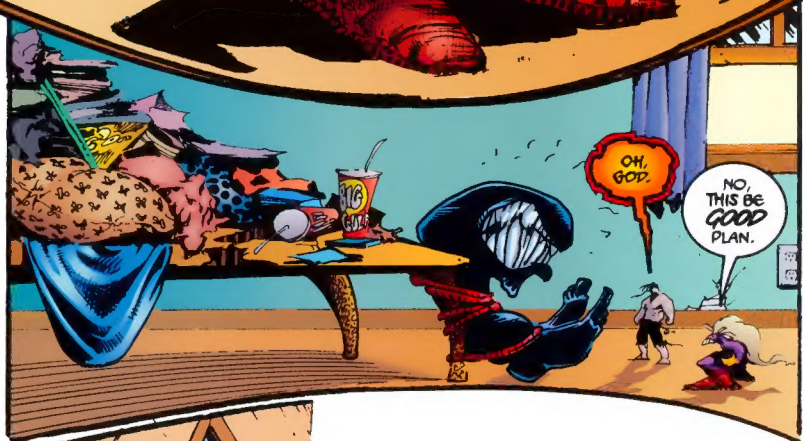
AND YET ELSEWHERE,  
IN THE SUDDENLY  
HUGE APARTMENT  
OF JULIE WINTERS...

MAXX  
IS TRIUMPHANT  
OVER THE RAVENOUS  
PIRANOSAURUS! HE IS  
TRULY LORD OF THE  
JUNGLE! AS IS HIS  
BROTHER, PITT!

GIVE IT A  
REST, MAXX. THERE'S  
SOMETHING NUTS  
HERE, AND I MEAN  
TSCOPE IT OUT!













BROTHER PITT  
LOOKED MAD AS  
HE SAIL AWAY.

WHO'S OUT  
THERE? I CAN  
HEAR SOMEONE...



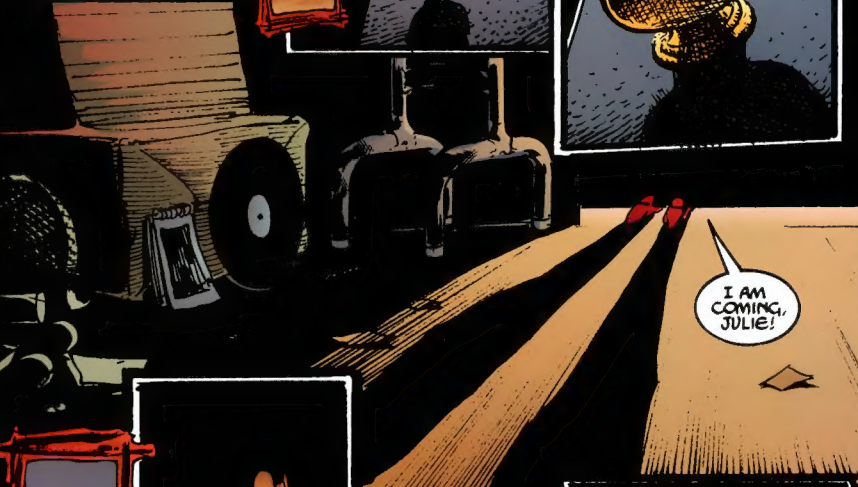
MAXX?



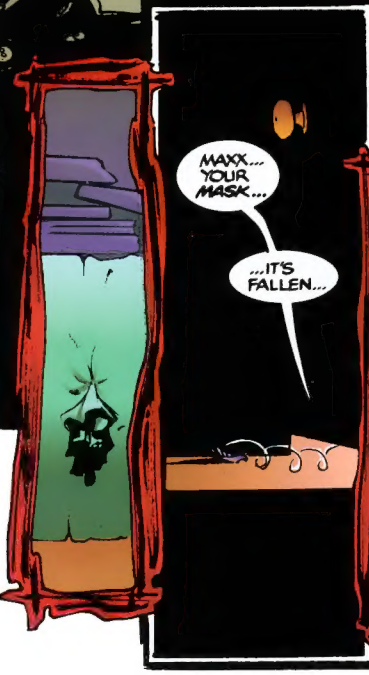
ARE YOU OUT  
THERE, MAXX? I'M  
STILL LOCKED IN  
THIS BATHROOM.



YOU'VE  
GOT TO SAVE  
ME, MAXX!



I AM  
COMING,  
JULIE!



MAXX...  
YOUR  
MASK...

...IT'S  
FALLEN...



YOU'RE...

...YOU'RE  
A...

OH  
GOD



WOW!



LOOK AT THOSE IZZES EAT!

I SURE AM GLAD YOU SNAPPED OUT OF IT AND PULLED ME UP AT THE LAST SECOND!

ME TOO.



OOF.



HEY! THAT'S PRETTY GOOD!

WHEN YOU GET HELP YOU CAN COME BACK FOR ME.

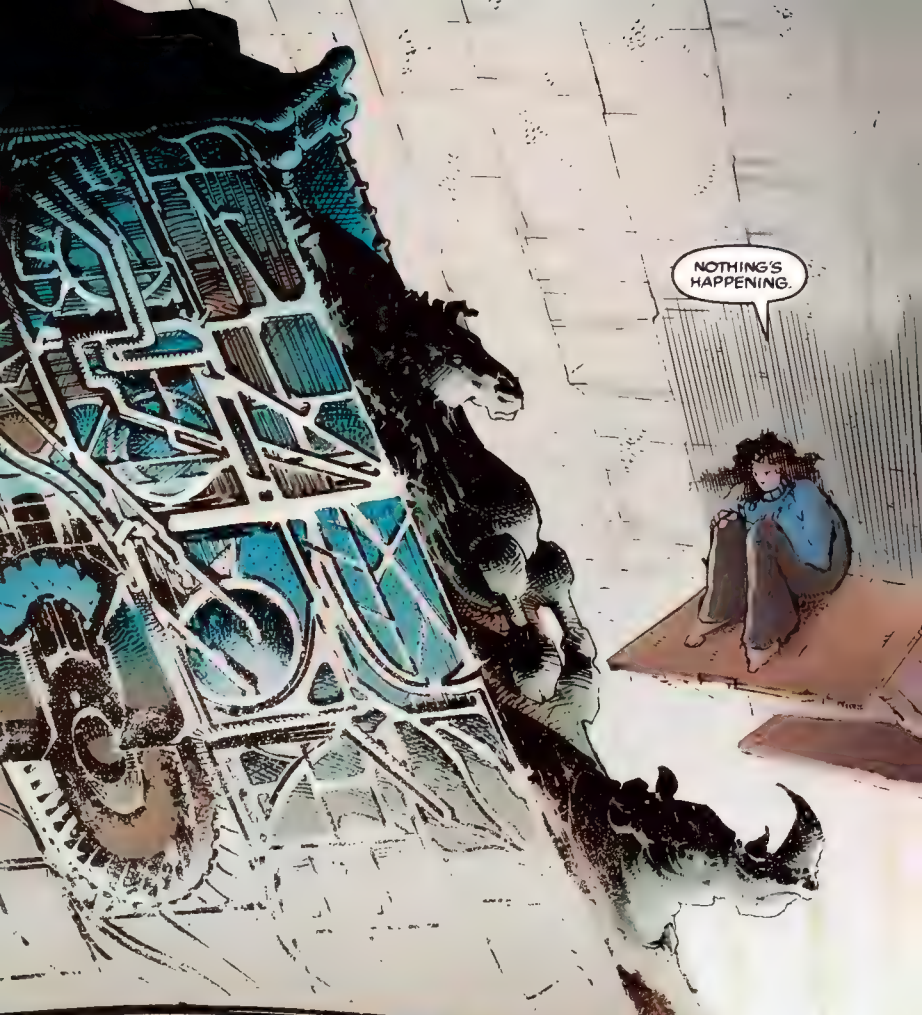
RIGHT, MARK?

MARK?



GODDAMN YOU, MARK!





NOTHING'S  
HAPPENING.




NO INSIGHTS,  
NO FLASHBACKS,  
NO NEAT EXPLANATIONS  
OF WHY MY LIFE IS SO  
MISERABLE. NO  
NOTHING.




WHAT  
KIND OF  
LAME SPIRIT  
ANIMAL ARE  
YOU ANYWAY?



I MEAN,  
I'M HERE. I'M  
LISTENING.  
SAY SOME-  
THING!



OR ARE YOU JUST  
PART OF THE USUAL  
CON, WHERE A HORSE  
TELLS YOU, "LIFE IS  
IMPORTANT," "GET  
HIGH ON LIFE," "HORSES  
TALK," AND IT'S ALL  
JUST CRAP?



'COURSE  
THE ONLY THING  
STUPIDER THAN  
A TALKING  
GRANITE HORSE  
IS A GIRL WHO  
LOOKS TO ONE  
FOR ANSWERS.



MAXX...?

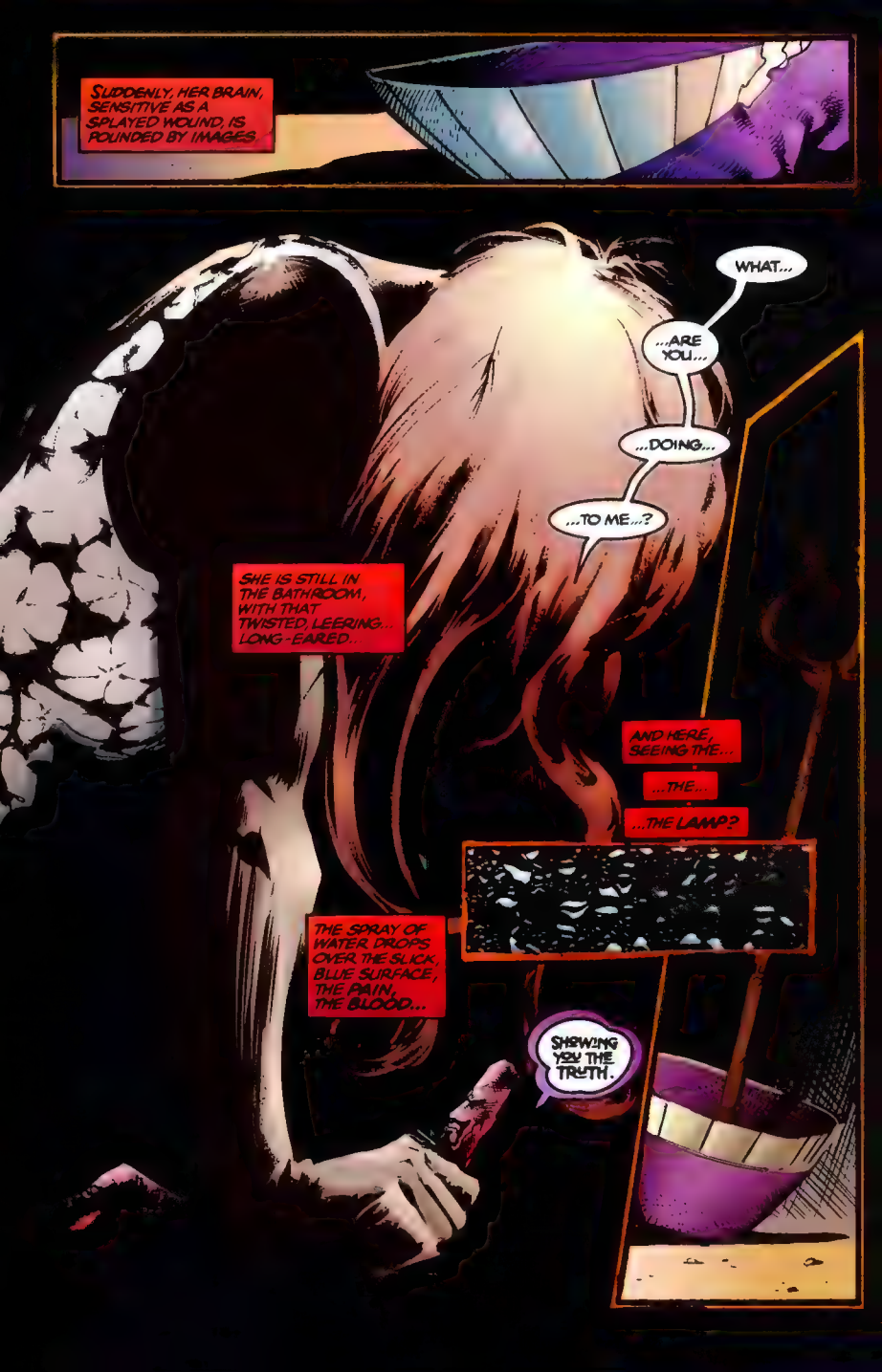
MAXX...  
DID YOU  
ALWAYS...

UNDER  
THE MASK,  
I MEAN?

IS THIS THE  
*SECRET...* WHY  
YOU WERE SENT  
HERE?

OR IS  
THIS SOME  
KIND OF  
AWFUL  
JOKE?

FOR GOD'S  
SAKE, MAXX,  
ANSWER  
ME!



SUDDENLY, HER BRAIN,  
SENSITIVE AS A  
SPRAYED WOUND, IS  
ROUNDED BY IMAGES.

WHAT...

...ARE  
YOU...

...DOING...

...TO ME...?

SHE IS STILL IN  
THE BATHROOM,  
WITH THAT  
TWISTED, LEERING...  
LONG-EARED...

AND HERE,  
SEEING THE...

...THE...

...THE LAMP?

THE SPRAY OF  
WATER DROPS  
OVER THE SLICK,  
BLUE SURFACE,  
THE PAIN,  
THE BLOOD...

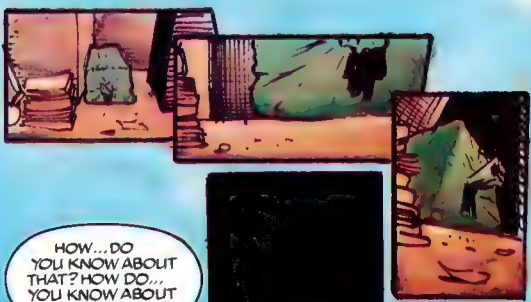
SHOWING  
YOU THE  
TRUTH.





STOP THIS! IT HURTS!

AH, AND I THOUGHT THIS WAS WHAT YOU WANTED, DID YOU SEE IT? BEHIND THE MASK?

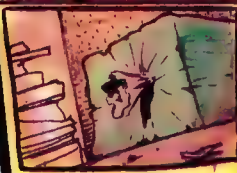


HOW... DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT? HOW DO... YOU KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING?

VERY SIMPLE.

A PART OF ME IS PROJECTED INTO THE OTHER WORLD... INTO YOUR HOME. I'M THERE RIGHT NOW... LISTENING.

THAT'S HOW I KNOW THAT THE OUTBACK IS GETTING SMALLER AND SMALLER...



"WHILE THE WORLD OF THE CITY IS GROWING! IT'S ALL UNBALANCED!"



"WHEN YOU SPOKE TO YOUR OTHER SELVES YESTERDAY, YOU DAMAGED THE BARRIERS!"

"I'D EXPLAIN MORE, BUT YOU HAVE A NASTY HABIT OF CUTTING OFF MY HEAD WHEN I TELL YOU THE TRUTH!"







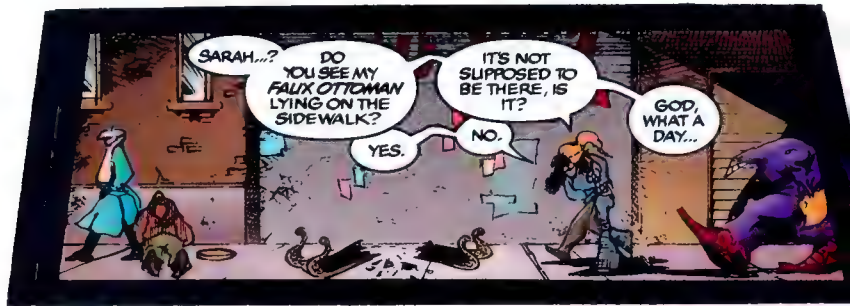
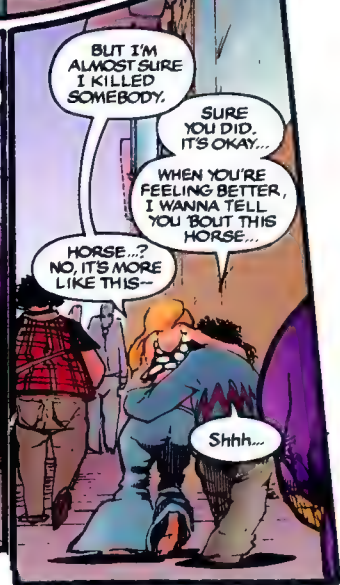
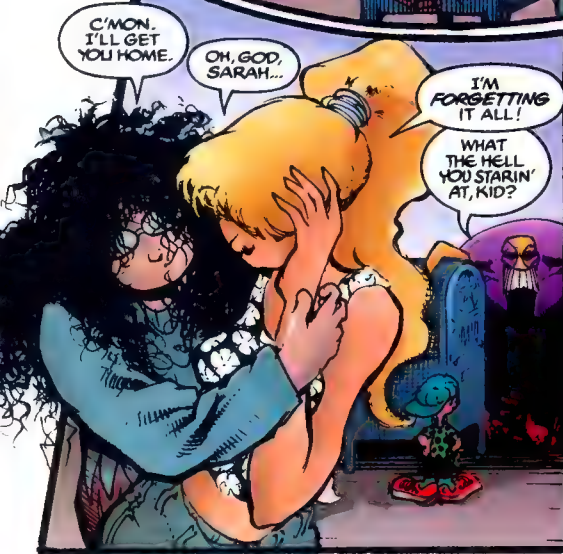
DO YOU KNOW  
HOW HARD IT IS TO  
CATCH AN AIRWHALE  
GOING IN THIS  
DIRECTION?

I WONDER  
IF THIS MEANS I'VE  
REALLY BEEN  
HANGING OFF THE  
STRUT OF A  
GOODYEAR BLIMP  
FOR THE LAST  
15 MILES?

WHUMP!

GREAT. NOW  
WE'RE STUCK IN  
A MILLION MILES  
OF PRIMORDIAL  
WILDERNESS.

BITCH,  
BITCH,  
BITCH.



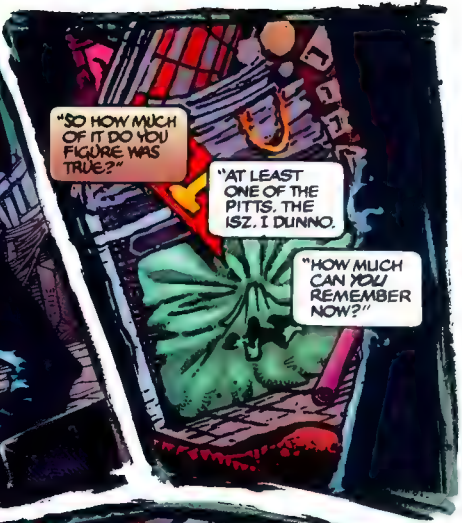




THAT  
SARAH'S  
A NICE  
KID.

MAN,  
SOMETHING  
STINKS.

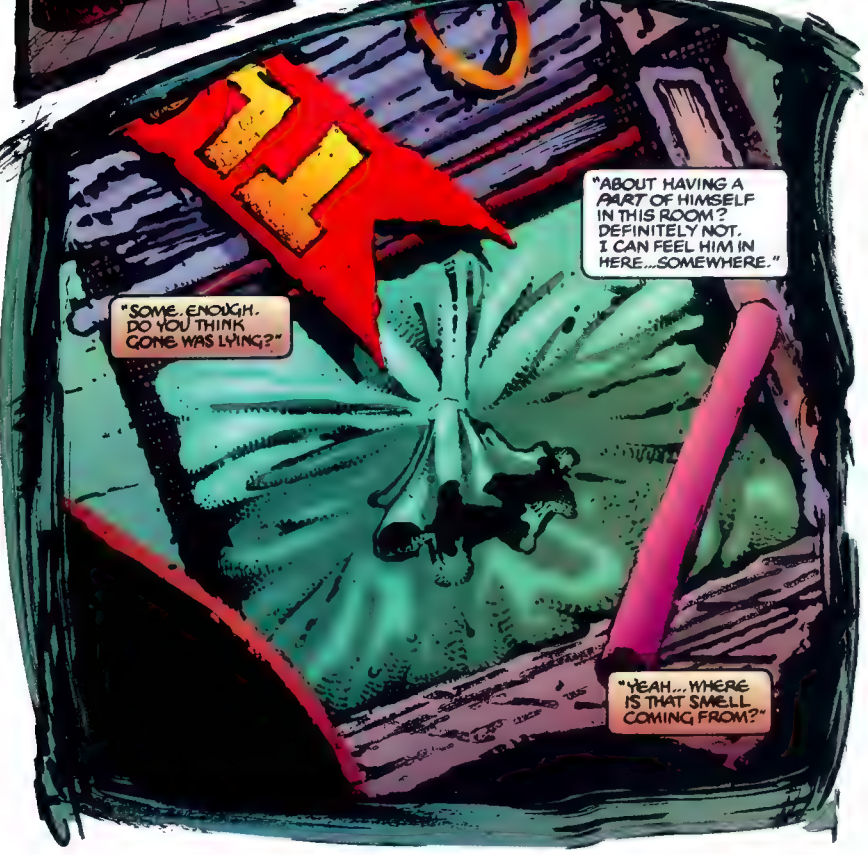
UH-HUH.



"SO HOW MUCH  
OF IT DO YOU  
FIGURE WAS  
TRUE?"

"AT LEAST  
ONE OF THE  
PITTS. THE  
ISZ. I DUNNO.

"HOW MUCH  
CAN YOU  
REMEMBER  
NOW?"



"SOME. ENOUGH.  
DO YOU THINK  
GONE WAS LYING?"

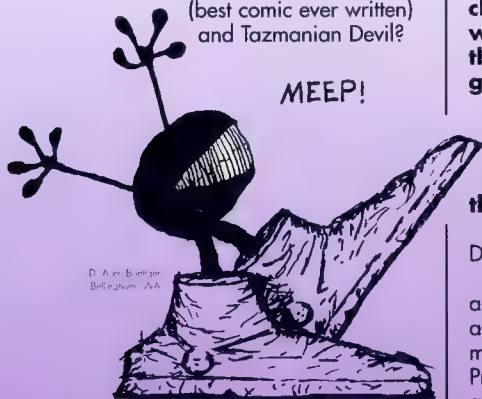
"ABOUT HAVING A  
PART OF HIMSELF  
IN THIS ROOM?  
DEFINITELY NOT.  
I CAN FEEL HIM IN  
HERE...SOMEWHERE."

"YEAH...WHERE  
IS THAT SMELL  
COMING FROM?"



Dear Sam and Bill,

I think the quality of your work slipped a little in Issue #7. I'm talking about the pages where Maxx and Pitt are three inches tall. Why are they three inches tall? And why is Maxx talking like a cross between Cerebus (best comic ever written) and Tazmanian Devil?



D. A. R. Bunting  
Bellevue, WA

What the hell is going on, Bill? How many sentences can Maxx say that are made up of completely one-syllable words? He keeps referring to himself in the third person: "Now, Maxx runs!" "He pushed Maxx too far!" Don't say he is talking like that because he is in the Outback; he hasn't talked like that before. I know Maxx has more brain power than a Neanderthal. Stop making him sound so idiotic.

Moose  
Swarthmore, PA

When I was a kid, I read a Hulk issue called "Hell is a Very Small Hulk." Ever since, I dreamed of going on to work at Marvel, drawing a teeny Hulk story. But

the Hulk editor said Peter David had already done a teeny Hulk story that year, and too many teeny Hulk stories would confuse Marvel readers.

A year later, I was working at Image and finally had my chance—which also explains why The Maxx sounds like the old green dumb Hulk, I guess. . .

So, to answer your original question about why Maxx and Pitt are three inches tall, it's because I like drawing them three inches tall.

Dear Sam,

THE MAXX CARDS KICK BUTT!!! But I am so confused! The three first appearances are really cool, but I need to know more about the Seedbringer, the Mad Prophets, and the Emwitabway. But then again, the Emwitabway actually first appeared in Comico Primer #5. Yet I still need to know more about him.

Anyway, I know you try hard to put out your books on time, and then the printers screw you over and make your books late. Well, good luck on future issues.

Your Maxx-imum fan,  
Kelsey McNair

**Issue #7 wasn't late because of the printers—it was my fault. #9 will be out mid-June, #10 in August, and #11 in September. This schedule is not monthly, but at least I stand a chance in hell of sticking to it. We Image guys are trying to remember**



**not to solicit unless we really really really mean it.**

Dear Sam and Bill,

Let me just say that nothing would give me more pleasure than being able to eat little hard sugar tablets from Maxx's esophagus. I want a Maxx Pez dispenser. Or an Iz bendy-toy that turns blacked when you bring it into the real world.

I finished reading #7, and I was amused for the most part. While reading the letters page, I reflected back to Issue #5 with the beans. When I bought the Maxx trading cards, I was overcome with joy. I saw the Seedbringer card and card #14 (The Legend); the beans from Maxx's mask, which is a Seedbringer mask, are actually a symbol of the seeds the Seedbringer sows.

Believe me, kiddies, go buy The Maxx card set! It helps a lot!

Sincerely,  
Alden Keith  
(no relation)

Dear Sam,

Maxxcards are sooooo coool. Do you plan on making a

second series?

Is there ever going to be a Maxxhead club?

You have made a big mistake on THE cover to Maxx 6. What is missing, you ask, but THE most often-used word in THE English language. You've stripped THE Maxx of his identity! You got rid of the cool THE. You must bring back THE THE.

On the cover of Issue #6, why is Tracy under your name?

When is the role-playing game going to come out?

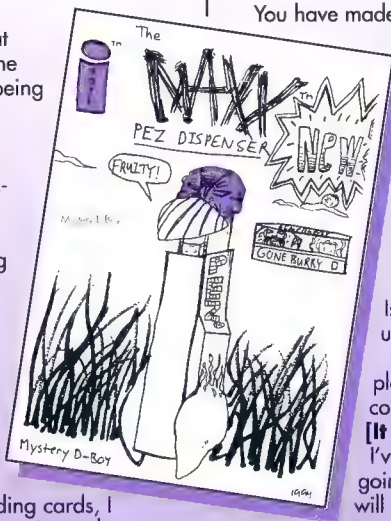
**[It has. See Issue #4.]**

I've heard The Maxx is going to be on MTV. If so, will you release it on videotape 'cause I don't have cable?

O.K. I know I'm stupid and stuff. I'm just a 14-year-old kid whose life is wrapped up in comics, music, and wondering why the world has so many problems. So please tell me who Paglia and

Frazetta are. I imagine they're feminists, but, to tell the truth, I really don't know what a feminist is. Please answer this!

Here's my hypothesis on The Maxx so far.



The MAXX





He's some dude who found the mask of the Seedbringer. But since he's not a real relative, the Isz that he's supposed to plant are trying to kill him. His spiritual



animal is the Great Hare. Hit men (or hit landsharks) are being sent to do The Maxx in. Mr. Gone, who seems bad, is actually OK 'cause he doesn't think he is doing anything wrong. Julie got beat up and raped so now lets off steam in the Outback. Her spiritual animal is the leopard. Except now the cool jungle queen has black hair and is ugly 'cause of violence and hatred in the city plane. She lives in that rock in the Outback (which looks like rhino butt), and in the city it is a cool house with glass bubbles at the top. The Isz which are planted by the Seedbringer get mean when brought to the city. Now they dress up like us. The fears, all named Dave, want to rip Maxx's mask off but expose pods, which means Maxx is linked to the Seedbringer. The Maxx has a few names, called Maxx by Julie, B'r Lappin by Mr. Gone, and J'maknl (love that name) by creatures of the Outback like the airwhales, crabbits, dlcants, Isz, etc. etc. I'm confused.

Sincerely,  
Total and Complete  
Maxxhead,  
Steven Githens  
Skandia, MI

**Boy, this letter came along just in the nick of time. Just when I think I'm taking myself and this book way too seriously, this letter points out how goofy the whole thing is.**

Dear Sam Kieth,  
How many issues do you plan on

making before you end The Maxx series?  
Mike Schlerf  
Amherst, NH  
**Future issues? As long as you folks keep buyin' 'em, I'll keep pumpin' 'em out. Fair enough? By the end of Issue**

**#11, however, you should know:**

- (1) Why Mr. Gone is evil and why he is fixated on Julie,**
- (2) Why Julie is fixated on Maxx,**
- (3) Why Maxx fixates on the mask.**

**While we still won't know what Maxx looks like under the mask in the real world, we will know what he looks like in the Outback. (And if you're surprised by now, you're an idiot.)**

Dear Sam,

Since Darker Image is cancelled, you should put out a one-shot issue with the Darker Image story. Call it Maxx #0. Or put it in a trade paperback along with all The Maxx issues and the first appearance of The Maxx from Comico Primer #5.



That would be cool.  
Long live The Maxx.

Ben Saylor  
Anchorage, Alaska

**How about it? Let me know—  
shall we reprint Issues 1-6? If  
we get lots of letters in support,  
we'll do it.**

To Sam,

I would like to join The Maxx  
fan club. Could you tell me how  
to do this.

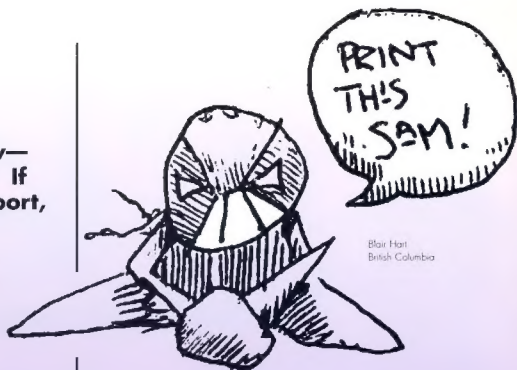
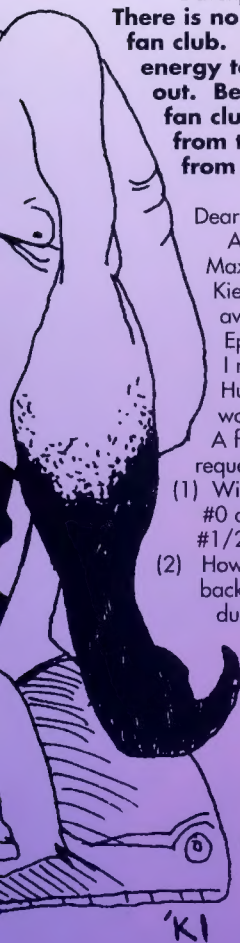
Thank you,  
Courtney Sexton  
Davenport, Iowa

**There is no official Maxx  
fan club. It takes all our  
energy to get the book  
out. Besides, I think a  
fan club should come  
from the fans, not  
from companies.**

Dear Mr. Kieth,

As well as being a  
Maxx fan, I am a major  
Kieth fan. I am eagerly  
awaiting my order for  
Epicurus #1 and #2.  
I recently purchased  
Hulk #368, and your  
work is breath-taking!  
A few questions and  
requests:

- (1) Will there be a Maxx  
#0 as hinted at in Maxx  
#1/2?
- (2) How about bringing  
back the Cyclopean  
dudes from Max the  
Hare?
- (3) Since you've  
used Isz and  
crabbits, will  
we also see De  
Grand Wa-zoo in  
the pages of  
Maxx?
- (4) Who hired  
Mako to attack  
Maxx? Mr.  
Gone, right?

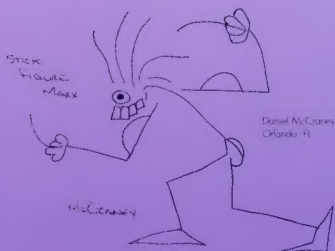


Blair Hart  
British Columbia

- (5) Mr. Gone isn't really dead, is he?  
How did he survive Julie's attack, and  
where is he hiding out?
- (6) "I Before E" has a Kieth Konkordance.  
How about printing a more recent one  
including trading cards and other  
artistic masterpieces by Kieth. I am a  
Kieth Kompletist and it would help a  
lot.

Captain Mosh  
Valhalla, NY

- (1) **See above.**
  - (2) **OK**
  - (3) **No—Grand Wazoo is a differ-  
ent universe.**
  - (4) **You are very warm.**
  - (5) **Warmer still—hot!**
  - (6) **A check list of current stuff  
will appear next issue.**
- Meanwhile, Maxximum Sound  
is still available—order from  
Animated Alligator (see Issue #4  
for address). But here's a check-  
list of some real artists. If you  
like my art, check out these guys.  
These are the big kids:**



Daniel McGraw  
Orlando, FL

## FRANK FRAZETTA:

A lot of people remember Frank Frazetta from his paperback covers in the '70's. A smaller, fortunate group have dug up a handful of black and white comic stories he did in the '50's. Impressed by the fluid brushwork of Alex Raymond and the fine draftsmanship of Hal Foster, many people felt that Frazetta achieved a Mozart-like balance between heart and mind. I know that sounds corny, but for a lot of people, nobody's come close since to matching Frazetta's ability to go between the sensual and the aggressive.

## BERNI WRIGHTSON:

Wrightson has one of the coolest brush lines in comics. If you like those long, smooth, pointy brush strokes that Kelly Jones does, along with amazing blacks and shadows, check out Wrightson.

## ARTHUR SUYDAM:

If you like pot-bellied characters with skinny necks and long noses, Suydam's underground work in Heavy Metal is full of 'em. He is very much a student of the Frazetta/Wrightson school of cool brushwork.

## VAUGHN BODE:

This is the guy I know least about, but his style keeps popping up in my work. Leaning closer to a cartoony edge than the other guys, his affection for his characters overshadows the sometimes adult material they're portrayed in.

There's a bunch of guys I left out, like Kirby, Crumb, Shelton, Steranko, and Neil Adams. If you're really interested, find out about these artists by bugging your comic shop dealer or some old guy over 30. Don't get upset if your favorite artist isn't in here, either—I'm talking about the ones who influenced me. Everybody stands on somebody's shoulders.

**Without these guys, I'd be *gum on your shoe***



